

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed March 17, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. New claims 11-18 are added. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 10 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed March 17, 2004, claims 1-10 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 11-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,012. Attached hereto is a terminal disclaimer with the appropriate fee under 37 CFR §1.20(d) which disclaims the portion of the term of any patent granted on the present application which extends past the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,012. Accordingly, the rejection under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is now overcome.

New claims 11-18, which depend from independent claim 10, correspond to claims 2-9.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any additional fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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